Law of Adaptation.

BY O. B. TREW.

"God worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." Eph. 1 : 11.

In the economy of God's universe all things are according to his eternal purpose (Eph. 3 : 11) so as to bring about the intended results and the highest development in mankind, that God may be glorified and man may be happy. "Thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Rev 4 : 11. For the accomplishment of this end, God has wisely and beautifully arranged and adapted means to ends, and things to each other.

In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as declared by his apostles, this law is clearly and prominently set forth, so that there can be no excuse for ignoring it as it partains to the relation of man to God and to Christ ; of man to man, and of men and women to each other, of children to parents, in all the duties of life, in their dealings with one another, their general deportment ; and their relative adaptations should, and must be observed in order to live in unison with this inexorable law of the Creator.

To bring this clearly before us, the apostle Paul tells us that "the head of Christ is God," 1 Cor. 11 : 3. Again we read : "I came to do thy will O, God," Heb. 10 : 9. "And he became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," Phil. 2 : 8. Here is submission and obedience, even of the Son of God. Now we ask, what followed as a consequence of this obedience? "For this God highly exalted him and gave him a name which is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that that Jesus Christ is Lord, &c," Phil. 2 : 9, 10. This is adaptation, it is God's law.

Again we read that "the head of every man is Christ," 1 Cor. 11 : 3. Now as "Jesus Christ became the Author of eternal Salvation to all them that obey," Heb. 5 : 9, and as every soul that will not hear that prophet shall be destroyed, &c." Acts 3 : 23. Therefore, nothing short of entire obedience to the commands of Christ, can secure eternal life. Whatever a man as a Christian may claim as an official, whether door-keeper, deacon, or elder, if he does not render submission as an humble servant of the Lord Jesus Christ he is not worthy of eternal life. "Whosoever will be chief among you let him be your servant," Matth. 20 : 27. Now we read again, "The head of the woman is the man." Same verse as above. And the same law, obedience and submission. Now as the man that loves Christ can cheerfully submit to the will of the Lord, so the wife that loves her husband can submit to her husband, for he cares and provides for her. Though the husband and wife may sometimes have different opinions, the law of adaptation remains all the same ; and Paul says: "Wives be in subjection to your own husband," Eph. 5: 22. Again as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." 24 and 25 verses. Husbands love your wives, "In like manner ye wives be in subjection to your own husbands," 1 Pet. 3 : 1 and Col. 3 : 18. But this furnishes no evidence that the wife may not be the husband's equal, or even more. Every man or woman accomplishes the most in submission to the law of adaptation.

It is said of Gen. Logan's wife, that when the General was defeated she encouraged him, when he met with success she applauded him, when he was disappointed she soothed and comforted him. Such sterling merits and character in a devoted wife must necessarily buoy up the spirits of the husband, enhance his usefulness and insure success in any important purpose through her influence ; besides this the husband will naturally and joyfully reciprocate the kindness shown to him, so that the wife as well as the husband, will be made happy ; and though their spheres in life and fields of labor are different, "all their joys are one." It would be hard to tell which was the greatest benefactor, Gen, Logan or his wife. I will leave this for the women to decide.

But to speak of the equality or inequality of men and women, as applied to the community is silly : or to say that one or the other sex fills a higher or nobler sphere in life than the other, is incomprehensible to the human mind, and should be considered beneath the dignity of a man or woman to quibble about. For while the man may rise higher in his legitimate sphere, the woman may excel him just as much in her own calling, in the active duties of life. No man can fill her place, neither can the woman ever successfully fill the place of the man in the duties of life to which man is more especially adapted. A few solitary instances may be found where a woman succeeds pretty well in man's sphere, but this is the exception and not the rule. The law of adaptation has its origin in the Creator, and my attempt to reverse this law will culminate in disappointment. The cry of elevating women to a level with men, except in education, is an insult to the female population and even in education, they are now, in many parts of the United States, quite on a level with the male population. And as regards the respect shown toward them, and the esteem in which they are held, we know they are always preferred among enlightened people. To enfranchise them with the right to vote would not elevate the women any more than it would the men, perhaps not as much. I think it would elevate both, if it would enable us to wipe out the curse of intemperance, and thereby diminish pauperism, crime and infidelity, as it certainly would.

We will now advert to the relationship of children to parents.

While it is natural and right for the parents to care and provide for their children, pertaining to their present or temporal wants, it is essential to the highest interests and enjoyment of the children to be submissive to the will of the parents, to honor, respect and esteem them highly, and render obedience to all the duties that pertain to the interests of the parents or children ; this is more especially imperious in Christian families, whether parents are always free from mistakes or not. The law of God, the law of adaptation, the teachings of the Apostles demands obedience. It is certain that adherence to the law of obedience on the part of children is always safer than disobedience ; besides this fact, children have the promise, in the word of God, of long life in this world for rendering such obedience, to father and mother. Paul says : (Eph. 6 : 1,) "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right, Honor father and mother, which is, the first commandment with promise, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." But while long life is promised to the obedient, Paul says of them that practice disobedience to parents, "They are worthy of death." Rom. 1 : 30 32. The duty of rendering obedience to parents is not confined to little children only, it follows them to manhood or womanhood. For in 2 Tim. 3 : 1, 8, Paul speaks of the wickedness of men's disobedience to parents, and of their duty to honor father and mother, which rests upon all men and women of all Christian families as long as they live, whether the children are large or small. Then let all children take heed if they value long life on earth and would shun the "indignation and wrath" that is threatened to them that obey not the truth." Rom. 1 : 9. "The Lord shall be revealed from heaven in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ," 2 Thess. 1 : 7, 8. What then should hinder any one from conforming to their highest interest and attain to the highest state of enjoyment in this life, and live forever in the world to come. And how shall they enter into life eternal? Christ says : "Keep the commandments," "If ye keep my words ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free, and if the truth shall make you free you shall be free indeed." "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to all that believe." Will you accept God's law ; will you live or will you die!

The Greatest Street Preacher.

Archbishop Leighton returning home one morning, was asked by his sister if he had heard a sermon. "I've met a sermon," was the answer. The sermon he had met was a corpse on its way to the grave. The preacher was death, the greatest of street preachers. No laws nor penalties can silence, no tramp of horses nor rattling of carriages nor rush and din of crowed streets drown his voice in Heathen, Pagan or Protestant countries. In monarchies and free states, in town and country, the solemn pomp of discourse is going on. In some countries a man is imprisoned for even dropping a tract, but what prison will hold this awful Preacher ; what chains can bind Him? He lifts up his voice in the very presence of tyrants the greatest. He walks unobstructed through the midst of their guards, and delivers the message which troubles their serenity and embitters their pleasures. If we do not meet His sermons, still we cannot escape them. He comes to our abodes and takes the dearest objects of our love as his text. His oft-repeated sermons still enforce the same exhortation. This is the talk of Archbishop Leighton, of the Preacher called Death. Oh! let us be prepared to meet this great street preacher, when He comes to take us from this world.

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Small Disappointments.

It was a small disappointment to me to read in the EVANGELIST, Dec. 8th, that the New Testament Scriptures were first brought into "point" in about 1450 and 75. So it appears when the letter r, is changed to o, then print becomes point. It seems very remarkable that so simple an act, as we think it is, was only discovered in the year 1440. I have Adam's Typography, which means an instructor to the art of printing.

In this work it is said that it is difficult to ascertain by whom the art of printing was discovered. That the first books were only a Fac Simile of manuscript volumes ; that is close imitation ; and the art was kept a secret, so as to keep up a high price on the books printed.

In the introduction to the revised New Testament it is said, it is thought a German translation of the Bible was printed as early as 1466 at Strasburg.

In Adam's Typography it is said, "in 1462, John Faust carried a number of Bibles to Paris which he and his partner, Schaffer had printed, and disposed of them as manuscripts ; at this time the discovery of the art was not known in France. At first he sold them at the high price of 500 or 600 crowns, a sum usually obtained by the scribes ; he afterwards, lowered, his price to 60, which created universal astonishment ; but when he produced them according to the demand, and even reduced the price to thirty, all Paris became agitated,

The uniformity of the copies increased their wonder, the Parasians considering it a task beyond human invention, information was given to the police against him as a magician ; his lodgings were searched a great number of Bibles were found, and seized ; the red ink with which they were embellished was said to be his blood ; it was seriously adjudged that he was in league with the devil ; whereupon he was cast into prison and would most probably have shared the fate of such, whom ignorant and superstitious judges condemned in those days for witchcraft. He now found it necessary, in order to gain his liberty, to make known the discovery of the art.

This circumstance gave rise to the tradition of "the devil and Dr. Faustus, which is handed down to the present time. It is uncertain when Faust died. He was at Paris in 1466, and it is strongly conjectured that he fell a victim to the plague, which then raged in the capitol.

The writer of this same article concludes, that the first Bible printed from metal types, was published in 1450.

The writer futher concludes, concerning the discovery of the art of printing, that John Gutemberg was the inventor, John Faust the promoter, Peter Schaffer the improver.

OBED SNOWBURGER.

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It is not to be born that Christian people should say, We cannot know whether God is favorable to us or not. On the contrary, we should learn to say, I know that I believe in Christ, and therefore that God is my gracious Father.--*Luther.*